Affinity Water

Drought Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report Appendix C

Affinity Water

Contents

C. Plans, Policies and Programmes Review

The full review of relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes is included in Table C.1 below. This exercise was undertaken as part of the WRMP24 SEA Scoping process, however additional plans, policies and programmes have been reviewed as part of the Drought Plan SEA, including those identified as part of the WRMP24 SEA consultation process.

Table C.1: Full Plans, Policies and Programmes Review for the Affinity Water WRMP24 Scoping Report

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
International		
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	Biodiversity	The aims are to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats and to promote European cooperation. Particular importance is placed on the need to protect endangered natural habitats and endangered vulnerable species, including migratory species.
Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1983)	Biodiversity	The Convention aims to conserve terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.
Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	Biodiversity	The Biodiversity Convention has three main aims which are to conserve biological diversity; to ensure the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
Ramsar Convention - The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971)	Biodiversity	Provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The aim is 'the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world'. The Convention uses a broad definition of the types of wetlands covered, including lakes and rivers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands and peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, near-shore marine areas, mangroves and coral reefs, and human-made sites such as fishponds, rice paddies, reservoirs, and salt pans.
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Climatic Factors	The stated objective is to achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. The parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.
Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)	Climatic Factors	The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 and ratified in 2005. It commits its parties to limit climate change by setting internationally binding targets for emission reductions. Covering the six main GHGs, it required the UK to reduce emissions by 12.5% in the first commitment period (2008-2012). This was successfully achieved, and a second commitment period has been agreed whereby European Union (EU) countries will aim to achieve a joint 20% reduction compared to 1990 levels.
Commitments arising from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg (2002)	Climatic Factors	Adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 and built upon earlier declarations made at previous conferences and summits. It commits nations to take a collective responsibility to build a human, equitable and caring global society cognisant of the need for human dignity for all. The Declaration also reinforces the three pillars of sustainable development: environmental, economic and social development at the local, national, regional and global level.
Paris Agreement (2015)	Climatic Factors	The Paris Agreement came out of the COP21 and aims to limit global temperature rises to 1.5ºC to 2ºC above pre-industrial levels. It brings together 196 parties from across the world into a common cause and requires all parties to put forward nationally determined contributions to strengthen efforts in the years ahead. It also aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change.
Charter for the Protection and Management of Archaeological Heritage (1990)	Historic Environment	The charter lays down principles relating to the different aspects of archaeological heritage management. These include the responsibilities of public authorities and legislators, principles relating to the professional performance of the processes of inventorisation, survey, excavation, documentation, research, maintenance, conservation, preservation, reconstruction, information, presentation, public access and use of the heritage, and the qualification of professionals involved in the protection of the archaeological heritage. The Charter states that policies for the protection of archaeological heritage should constitute an integral component of policies relating to land use, development, and planning as well as of cultural, environmental and educational policies.
The World Heritage Convention (1972)	Historic Environment	The Convention defines the kind of natural or cultural sites which can be considered for inscription on the World Heritage List. It also sets out the duties of states in identifying potential sites and their role in preserving them.
Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to	Population and Human Health	The Aarhus Convention was created to give empowerment to citizens and civil society organisations in relation to environmental matters and is founded on the principles of participative democracy. It provides for access to environmental information; public participation in environmental decision making; and access to justice.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (1998)		
European[1]		
Ambient Air Quality Directive (2008/50/EC)	Air	It establishes ambitious, cost-effective targets for improving human health and environmental quality up to 2020. The EU objective on air quality is 'to achieve levels of air quality that do not result in unacceptable impacts on, and risks to, human health and the environment'.
Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution (2005)	Air	The Strategy recognises the impact of air pollution on human health and the environment. It establishes interim objectives for air pollution in the EU and proposes appropriate measures for achieving them.
Establishing measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel 2007 (1100/2007)	Biodiversity	Advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in 2006 indicated that the stock of the European eel (*Anguilla anguilla*) is outside safe biological limits across European waters. The population has declined significantly, reducing to 5% of the original 1980s stock levels. In response to this advice, the European Union adopted Council Regulation (EC) No 1100/2007, which requires Member States to undertake a series of measures aimed at the recovery of eel stock. The goal is to achieve 40% escapement of adult eels, relative to that in absence of anthropogenic factors, to sea to spawn. The EU Regulation was transposed into UK law under The Eels (England and Wales) Regulations 2009. Eleven Eel Management Plans have been prepared, one for each River Basin identified in England and Wales. The plans outline the current situation and how we intend to achieve the targets required by the European Regulation. Such measures include a reduction in fishing pressure, improving access and habitat quality, and reducing the impacts of entrainment. The measures that will require the installation of passes at obstructions and screens at abstraction and discharge points that prevent the migration of eels.
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (2011)	Biodiversity	Strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. The six targets cover: • Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity • Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure • More sustainable agriculture and forestry • Better management of fish stocks • Tighter controls on invasive alien species • A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss The strategy is in line with two commitments made by EU leaders in March 2010. The first is the 2020 headline target: 'Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible, while stepping up the EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss'; the second is the 2050 vision: 'By 2050, European Union biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides – its natural capital – are protected, valued and appropriately restored for biodiversity's intrinsic value and for their essential contribution to human wellbeing and economic prosperity, and so that catastrophic changes caused by the loss of biodiversity are avoided'.
Fresh Water Fish Directive (2006/44/EC)	Biodiversity	The Directive concerns the quality of fresh waters and shall apply to those waters designated by the Member States as needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life. This directive shall not apply to waters in natural or artificial fishponds used for intensive fish-farming.
Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) (as amended)	Biodiversity	Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (this is the codified version of Directive 79/409/EEC as amended). This Directive ensures far-reaching protection for all of Europe's wild birds, identifying 194 species and sub-species among them as particularly threatened and in need of special conservation measures. There are a number of components to this scheme: • Member States are required to designate SPAs for 194 particularly threatened species and all migratory bird species. SPAs are scientifically identified areas critical for the survival of the targeted species, such as wetlands. They are part of the Natura 2000 ecological network set up under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. • A second component bans activities that directly threaten birds, such as the deliberate killing or capture of birds, the destruction of their nests and taking of their eggs, and associated activities such as trading in live or dead birds (with a few exceptions). • A third component establishes rules that limit the number of bird species that can be hunted (82 species and subspecies) and the periods during which they can be hunted. It also defines hunting methods which are permitted (e.g. non-selective hunting is banned).

[1] It is acknowledged that the UK has left the European Union. However, European law and policy has formed the basis for UK environmental laws and contributed to the direction of UK policy in these areas for many years. As such, they are considered to remain a useful contextual frame as part of the policies, plans and programmes review.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna (92/43/EEC)	Biodiversity	The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. While the Directive makes a contribution to the general objective of sustainable development; it ensures the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic species, including around 450 animals and 500 plants. Some 200 rare and characteristic habitat types are also targeted for conservation in their own right. The Directive provides for a ban on the downgrading of breeding and resting places for certain strictly protected animal species. Exceptions to the strict protection rules can be granted under very specific conditions. The Habitats Directive also establishes the EU wide Natura 2000 ecological network of protected areas. For these areas it provides a high level of safeguards against potentially damaging developments. Together with the Birds Directive, the Habitats Directive forms the backbone of EU nature protection legislation.
Directive on Animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals (2006/88/EC)	Biodiversity	The Directive sets out rules on animal health concerning aquaculture animals and related products which apply to the marketing, importation and transit of such products. It also establishes measures aimed at the prevention and control of diseases in aquaculture animals as well as making further provisions regarding the authorisation to aquaculture production businesses and processing establishments.
Limiting Global Climate Change to 2 degrees Celsius - The way ahead for 2020 and beyond (2007)	Climatic Factors	This a set of binding legislation to ensure the EU meets its climate and energy targets for the year 2020. The targets are: • 20% reduction in GHGs • 20% of EU energy from renewables • 20% improvement in energy efficiency
A Clean Planet for all: A European strategic long-term vision for a prosperous, modern, competitive and climate neutral economy (2018)	Climatic Factors	The long-term strategy sets out Europe's commitment to lead in global climate action and to present a vision that can lead to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 through a socially-fair transition in a cost-efficient manner. It looks into the portfolio of options available for Member States, business and citizens, as well as into how these can contribute to the modernisation of our economy and improve the quality of life of Europeans, protect the environment, and provide for jobs and growth.
Promotion of the use of energy and renewable sources Directive (2009/28/EC)	Climatic Factors	The Directive sets ambitious targets that the EU will reach a 20% share of energy from renewable sources by 2020 and a 10% share of renewable energy specifically in the transport sector. It also sets out to improve the legal framework for promoting renewable energy.
Energy Act 2013	Climatic Factors	The Act makes provides a framework for delivering secure, affordable and low carbon energy. It includes provisions for decarbonisation and the duties in relation to it.
Mainstreaming sustainable development into EU policies: 2009 Review of the European Union Strategy for Sustainable Development	Cross-cutting	The Renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006) deals in an integrated way with economic, environmental and social issues and lists the following seven key challenges: 1. Climate change and clean energy; 2. Sustainable transport; 3. Sustainable consumption and production; 4. Conservation and management of natural resources; 5. Public health; 6. Social inclusion, demography and migration; and 7. Global poverty
European Commission Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC)	Cross-cutting	The Directives relates to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (ELD) and establishes a framework based on the polluter pays principle to prevent and remedy environmental damage. The Directive defines "environmental damage" as damage to protected species and natural habitats, damage to water and damage to soil.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (2001/42/EC)	Cross-cutting	The Directive, known as the SEA Directive, sets out the requirement for the assessment of certain plans and programmes on the environment. An SEA is mandatory for plans/programmes which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/ water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive. SEA is also required where plans/programmes have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.
The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention) (1985)	Historic Environment	The Convention sets out to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.
The European Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention) (1992)	Historic Environment	The Convention aims to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.
The European Landscape Convention (2006)	Landscape	The Convention is also known as the Florence Convention and it aims to promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues.
The Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	Population and Human Health	The Directive is the EU's main instrument to identify noise pollution levels and covers the following three key action areas: the determination of exposure to environmental noise; ensuring that information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public; and preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and preserving environmental noise quality where it is good. It applies to noise to which humans are exposed, particularly in built-up areas, in public parks or other quiet areas in an agglomeration, in quiet areas in open country, near schools, hospitals and other noise-sensitive buildings and areas. It does not apply to noise that is caused by the exposed person himself, noise from domestic activities, noise created by neighbours, noise at workplaces or noise inside means of transport or due to military activities in military areas.
European Soils Charter (2003)	Soil	The Charter sets out to protect soil as a complex natural resource which is fundamental to life. It recognises that: • Soil is a precious asset • Soil is a limited resource which is easily destroyed • Land has a wide variety of uses and a proper planning policy is needed by Governments for urban development and civil engineering projects • Farmers and foresters must preserve the soils quality • Soil must be protected from erosion and pollution • Further research and collaboration is required to ensure the wise use and conservation of soil
Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (2006)	Soil	The Strategy aims to protect soil and promote its sustainable use. It is based on the following guiding principles: • Preventing further soil degradation and preserving its functions • Restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent at least with current and intended use, thus also considering the cost implications of the restoration of soil
The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	Water	The Nitrates Directive aims to protect water quality across Europe by preventing nitrates from agricultural sources polluting ground and surface waters and by promoting the use of good farming practices. This Directive forms integral part of the Water Framework Directive and is one of the key instruments in the protection of waters against agricultural pressures.
The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC)	Water	The WFD has the following key aims: • Expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater • Achieving 'good status' for all waters by a set deadline • Water management based on river basins • 'Combined approach' of emission limit values and quality standards • Getting the prices right • Getting the citizen involved more closely • Streamlining legislation

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		There are a number of objectives in respect of which the quality of water is protected. The key ones at European level are general protection of the aquatic ecology, specific protection of unique and valuable habitats, protection of drinking water resources, and protection of bathing water. Member States must aim to reach good chemical and ecological status in inland and coastal waters by 2015.
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	Water	The objective of this Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors. The Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of such wastewater.
Drinking Water Directive (1998/83/EC)	Water	The Drinking Water Directive sets out the following objectives: • Sets quality standards for drinking water quality at the tap (microbiological, chemical and organoleptic parameters) and the general obligation that drinking water must be wholesome and clean. • Obliges Member States to regular monitoring of drinking water quality and to provide to consumers adequate and up-to-date information on their drinking water quality. • Member States may exempt water supplies serving less than 50 persons or providing less than 10 m3 of drinking water per day as an average and water in food-processing undertakings where the quality of water cannot affect the wholesomeness of the foodstuff in its finished form.
Directive on Bathing Water (76/160/EEC); and Directive 2006/7/EC repealing Directive 76/160/EEC (from 2014)	Water	The overall objective of the Directive remains the protection of public health whilst bathing, but the revised Directive also offers an opportunity to improve management practices at bathing waters and to standardise the information provided to bathers across Europe and aims to set more stringent water quality standards and also puts a stronger emphasis on beach management and public information.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	Water	This directive establishes a regime which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater. The directive establishes quality criteria that takes account local characteristics and allows for further improvements to be made based on monitoring data and new scientific knowledge. The directive thus represents a proportionate and scientifically sound response to the requirements of the WFD as it relates to assessments on chemical status of groundwater and the identification and reversal of significant and sustained upward trends in pollutant concentrations. Member States will have to establish the standards at the most appropriate level and take into account local or regional conditions. The groundwater directive complements the WFD. It requires: • Groundwater quality standards to be established by the end of 2008 • Pollution trend studies to be carried out by using existing data and data which is mandatory by the WFD (referred to as 'baseline level' data obtained in 2007-2008) • Pollution trends to be reversed so that environmental objectives are achieved by 2015 by using the measures set out in the WFD • Measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater to be operational so that WFD environmental objectives can be achieved by 2015 • Reviews of technical provisions of the directive to be carried out in 2013 and every six years thereafter • Compliance with good chemical status criteria (based on EU standards of nitrates and pesticides and on threshold values established by Member States)
Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EEC)	Water	The aim of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive is to protect more effectively the marine environment across Europe. It aims to achieve Good Environmental Status of the EU's marine waters by 2020 and to protect the resource base upon which marine-related economic and social activities depend. The Directive enshrines in a legislative framework the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities having an impact on the marine environment, integrating the concepts of environmental protection and sustainable use.
Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC)	Water	Its aim is to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive requires Member States to first carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such zones they would then need to draw up flood risk maps by 2013 and establish flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness by 2015. The Directive applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU.
Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources (2012)	Water	The Blueprint outlines actions in relation to improved implementation of current water legislation and the integration of water policy objectives into other policies, and also aims to fill the gaps in regard to water quantity and efficiency. The objective is to ensure that a sufficient quantity of good quality water is available for people's needs, the economy and the environment throughout the EU. It is closely linked to EU's 2020 Strategy and the 2011 Resource Efficiency Roadmap, however the analysis spans up to 2050 and is therefore expected to drive EU water policy over the long term.
National		

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
The Eels (England & Wales) Regulations 2009 (as amended)	Biodiversity	Transposed from the European Directive (1100/2007) into UK law, the Regulations aim to establish measures for the recovery of the stock of European eel. The Regulations will help implement delivery Eel Management Plans.
Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975	Biodiversity	The Act sets out the legal framework in which salmon and freshwater fisheries are regulated. It covers regulation on fishing methods and related offences, obstructions to fish passage, salmon and freshwater fisheries administration and law enforcement.
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework, JNCC and Defra (2012)	Biodiversity	The purpose of the Framework is to set a broad enabling structure for action across the UK between now and 2020: • To set out a shared vision and priorities for UK-scale activities, in a framework jointly owned by the four countries, and to which their own strategies will contribute. • To identify priority work at a UK level which will be needed to help deliver the Aichi targets and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. • To facilitate the aggregation and collation of information on activity and outcomes across all countries of the UK, where the four countries agree this will bring benefits compared to individual country work. • To streamline governance arrangements for UK-scale activity.
Making Space for Nature - A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network (2010)	Biodiversity	The report aims to answer the following questions: Do England's wildlife sites comprise a coherent and resilient ecological network? If not, what needs to be done? The report concludes that the approaches required to achieve a coherent and resilient ecological network are varied, and 24 wide-ranging recommendations are presented. Five themes unite them: • We need to continue the recent progress in improving the management and condition of wildlife sites, particularly our SSSIs. We also make recommendations for how these should be designated and managed in ways that enhance their resilience to climate change. • We need to properly plan ecological networks, including restoration areas. Restoration needs to take place throughout England. However, in some areas, both the scale of what can be delivered to enhance the network, and the ensuing There are a large number of surviving patches of important wildlife habitat scattered across England outside of SSSIs, for example in Local Wildlife Sites. We need to take steps to improve the protection and management of these remaining wildlife habitats. 'Protection' will usually be best achieved through incentive-based mechanisms, but at times may require designation. • We need to become better at deriving multiple benefits from the ways we use and interact with our environment. There are many things that society has to do that may seem to have rather little to do with nature conservation, but could have, or even should have if we embrace more radical thinking; flood management by creating wetlands is an obvious example. We need to exploit these 'win-win' opportunities to the full. Being better at valuing a wider range of ecosystem services would help this process. • We will not achieve a step-change in nature conservation in England without society accepting it to be necessary, desirable, and achievable. This will require strong leadership from government and significant improvements in collaboration between local authorities, local communities, statutory agencies, the voluntary and private sectors, farmers, landowners and other land-managers and individual citizens.
Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services, Defra (2011)	Biodiversity	The Strategy builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and sets out how the UK is implementing the international and EU commitments. The mission for this strategy is as follows: 'to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people'.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended)	Biodiversity	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 apply in the terrestrial environment and in territorial waters out to 12 nautical miles. The EU Habitats and Wild Birds Directives are transposed in UK offshore waters by separate regulations. The new regulations do not make any substantive changes to existing policies and procedures other than the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation. The Marine Management Organisation takes on certain licensing functions from Natural England to ensure consistency with the approach in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The objective of the Habitats Directive is to protect biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora. The Directive lays down rules for the protection, management and exploitation of such habitats and species.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations (2019)	Biodiversity	This instrument provides changes to those parts of the 2017 conservation of habitats and species regulations which would no longer work when the UK leaves the EU.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Delivering a healthy natural environment. Ecosystem approach action plan, Defra (2010)	Biodiversity	Known as the "Ecosystems Approach Action Plan" (EAAP)), it was first published in 2007 and was then updated in 2010. It sets out the concept and framework of ecosystem services, and describes how this could be translated into "an ecosystems approach" to policy and decision making that could be applied at all levels of Government.
The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order 2019	Biodiversity	The Order brings into force the EU Invasive Alien Species Regulation (1143/2014) on the prevention and management of invasive alien plant and animal species in England and Wales, including the relevant licenses, permits and rules for keeping invasive alien species.
The Great Britain Invasive Non-Native Species Strategy, Defra (2015)	Biodiversity	The Strategy builds on the first which was published in 2008 and sets out a series of aims and objectives to underpin action until 2020. It aims to address the issues of INNS in the UK to protect biodiversity, quality of life and economic interests.
A narrative for conserving freshwater and wetland habitats in England, Natural England (2016)	Biodiversity	Provides a narrative as to why the natural ecosystem system function is important for freshwater and wetland wildlife and recognises the ecosystem service benefits. It aims to provide a strategic framework for decision making for conserving these important habitats.
Conservation 21 - Natural England's Conservation Strategy for the 21st Century, Natural England (2016)	Biodiversity	The Strategy sets out how Natural England aim to contribute to the ambition set out the in Defra's strategy to 2020 and how they can work together with others to deliver this shared ambition. The Strategy is based on the following three principles: • Creating resilient landscapes and seas • Putting people at the heart of the environment • Growing natural capital
State of Natural Capital Annual Report 2020, Natural Capital Committee (2020)	Biodiversity	The Nature Capital Committee's seventh annual report on the state of natural capital. The report recognises the importance that nature-based interventions will have on achieving net zero by 2050 targets. The report makes recommendations for the Government to take forward and outlines key points for inclusion within the Environment Bill / Environment Act.
Standing Advice on Protected Species, Natural England (2016)	Biodiversity	Provides guidance on reviewing planning applications which might have an affected on protected species.
Climate Change Act 2008	Climatic Factors	The Act sets out a legal framework to commit the Government to tackling climate change and climate change adaptation is also covered in the Act as it provides a legal framework for adaptation policy. The Act sets out a target of net zero by 2050 based on 1990 levels.
UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, Defra (2017)	Climatic Factors	Identifies the key climate change risks and opportunities for the UK which are as follows: • Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure • Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures • Risks of shortages in the public water supply for agriculture, energy generation and industry • Risks to natural capital including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity • Risks to domestic and international food production and trade • New and emerging pests and diseases and invasive non-native species affecting people, plants and animals
The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting, Defra (2018)	Climatic Factors	This is the second National Adaptation Programme (NAP) and sets out the Government's response to the second Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). It also outlines the actions that will be taken to address the climate change issues identified in the CCRA across the following key sectors: Natural environment; Infrastructure; People and the built environment; Business and industry; and Local government.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2019)	Cross-cutting	The updated NPPF sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Achieving sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF whereby it has three overarching objectives in the social, economic and environmental spheres.
A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the	Cross-cutting	The 25 Year Plan sets out the Governments actions for improving the health of the natural environment. It includes six actions in order achieve clean air, plentiful and clean water, thriving plants and wildlife, reduced harm from environmental hazards, sustainable resource use and enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment:

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Environment, UK Government (2018)		• Using and managing land sustainably • Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes • Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing • Increasing resource efficiency, reducing pollution and waste • Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans • Protecting and improving the global environment
Environment Act 2021	Cross-cutting	First introduced to parliament in October 2019, the Environment Act came into force in 2021. The Act supports the 25 Year Environment Plan and brings about urgent and meaningful action to combat the environmental issues that the UK is facing. It sets out a requirement for biodiversity net gain which includes at least a 10% improvement in biodiversity value for new development. The Environment Act will deliver: • Long-term targets to improve air quality, biodiversity, water, and waste reduction and resource efficiency • A target on ambient PM2.5 concentrations, the most harmful pollutant to human health • A target to halt the decline of nature by 2030 • Environmental Improvement Plans, including interim targets • A cycle of environmental monitoring and reporting • Environmental Principles embedded in domestic policy making • Office of Environmental Protection to uphold environmental law
Securing the Future – Delivering the UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	Cross-cutting	The Strategy for sustainable development aims to '…enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations.' Guiding principles: • Living within environmental limits • Ensuring a strong, healthy, and just society • Achieving a sustainable economy • Promoting good governance • Using sound science responsibly • UK priorities for immediate action • Sustainable consumption and production • Climate change and energy • Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement • Sustainable communities
The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature, Defra (2011)	Cross-cutting	The White Paper outlines the Government's vision for the natural environment for the next 50 years.
Marine and Coastal Access Act (2009)	Cross-cutting	The Act sets out to protect marine functions, activities and wildlife. It commits the UK to ambitions actions and sets out the provisions for Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs), a Marine Planning system, reform of inshore fishers, amongst others.
The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Cross-cutting	The Wildlife and Countryside Act is the main Act which protects animals, plans and habitats in the UK. It implements the Bern Convention and the Birds Directive and contains details of European and national designated sites, protection for designated species.
Environment Protection Act 1990	Cross-cutting	The Act aims to set out provisions for the control of pollution to the environment (air, water and land) by regulating the management of waste and emissions. It places a duty of care on any business or person who produces waste to do so carefully and in line with requirements.
Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act	Cross-cutting	The Act was introduced in 2000 with the intention to give greater freedom for people to explore open countryside and contains provisions to introduce a new statutory right of access for open-air recreation to mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land. It also includes a power to extend the right to coastal land by order and enables landowners voluntarily to dedicate irrevocably any land to public access.
The Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act)	Cross-cutting	The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act is designed to help achieve a rich and diverse natural environment and thriving rural communities through modernised and simplified arrangements for delivering Government policy. It is about conserving and enhancing places and nature and helping

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
		people to enjoy them – taking a wider view, pursuing environmental management which encompasses access and recreation, and aiming where possible to achieve economic and social outcomes alongside conservation goals.
Creating a better place: Our ambition to 2020, Environment Agency (2018)	Cross-cutting	This aims to protect and improve natural resources in the UK and sits alongside Defra's 25 Year Environment Plan. It sets out the Environment Agency's vision, principles and purpose until 2020 as well as how they aim to deliver against the 25 Year Environment Plan.
UK National Ecosystem Assessment Follow-on (2014)	Cross-cutting	The 2011 UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) which identified that the natural world and its ecosystems are important to our well-being and economic prosperity, however they are consistently undervalued. This follow on provides new information and tools to help decision makers integrate the value of ecosystems into decision making.
National Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2016–2021, Infrastructure and Projects Authority (HM Government) (2016)	Cross-cutting	Sets out the Government's plans for economic infrastructure over the next 5 years to support delivery of housing and social infrastructure. The Plan recognises that water services are likely to come under increasing pressure because of population growth and a changing climate. The Plan sets out the following key objectives for water: • Start of construction on the Thames Tideway Tunnel • Reductions in average bills of about 5% in real terms • Further expenditure from 2020 with the start of Asset Management Period 7
Fixing the foundations: Creating a more prosperous nation, HM Government (2015)	Cross-cutting	The reports sets out the importance of productivity and the Government's vision to delivering a UK economy which is the richest of all major economies by 2030. It includes two pillars for raising productivity: • Encouraging long term investment in economic capital, including infrastructure, skills and knowledge. • Promoting a dynamic economy that encourages innovation and helps resources flow to their most productive use.
Environment Act 1995	Cross-cutting	The Act set out provisions for the creation of a number of government agencies including the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). It also set out new standards for environmental protection.
The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) Regulations 2015	Cross-cutting	The Regulations seek to ensure action is taken put any environmental damage right and are based on the 'polluter pays principle'. It transposes the European Commission Environmental Liability Directive into UK law. The Regulations require action in response to the most significant cases, covering specific types of: damage to species and habitats; damage to water; or risks to human health from contamination of land.
Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004	Cross-cutting	The regulations transpose the SEA Directive into UK law which requires an assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. Article 3 (2b) states that SEA is required for plans and programmes which are prepared for water management, set the framework for development consents, and/or are likely to have a significant environmental effect.
Creating a great place for living: together we are building a green and healthy future (2018)	Cross-cutting	The Defra group sets out make air purer, water cleaner, land greener and food more sustainable, and their mission is to restore and enhance the environment for the next generation, and to leave the environment in a better state. There are 10 goals which underpin this mission and include: 1. Sustainable farming and food 2. Pure air, clean rivers and a resilient water supply 3. Healthy seas and oceans 4. Beautiful landscapes, flourishing wildlife and native species 5. Thriving rural economies and communities 6. Efficient resource use and reduced waste 7. Protecting animals and plants from health risks 8. Resilient communities and economies 9. Great places for living for people and animals 10. Green global Britain
Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy (2020)	Cross-cutting	This document sets out a plan to rebuild the UK for a world living with COVID-19. The Government's aim at the centre of that plan is to return to life as close to normal as possible in a way that maximises health, economic and social outcomes. The first consideration is on the nation's health and the long-term health effects. The second consideration is improving peoples living standards. The document sets out a road map to recovery. Step 1 includes the avoidance of public transport and encouraging active travel and use of open spaces. Step 2 includes the re-opening public transport and non-essential retail. Step 3

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
		encompasses further re-openings. To deliver the phased plan, the Government will deliver fourteen programmes of work. This includes investment into science, technology and skills, as well as rapid re-engineering of public health and governmental infrastructure to prepare for future crises.
Build Back Better: our plan for growth (HM Treasury, March 2021)	Cross-cutting	The Plan sets out the UK Government's plan to support growth through investment to allow every part of the UK to grow while enabling a transition to net zero. The Plan recognises that there has been a lot of changed since the Industrial Plan was published in 2017 (net zero commitments, COVID-19 and the exit from the European Union) and as such, a new framework for growth is needed. Infrastructure, skills and innovation are the three pillars of growth the Plan focuses on.
The Clean Growth Strategy (BEIS, 2017	Cross-cutting	The Government strategy sets out a comprehensive set of policies and proposals that aim to accelerate the pace of 'clean growth'. The strategy sets out how the Government will invest £2.5 billion to support carbon innovation between 2015-2021 to ensure the UK meets the fourth and fifth carbon budgets (covering the periods 2023-2027 and 2028-2032). This will encompass a drive to decarbonisation, and the strategies within the document will help to ensure the targets are met: • Accelerating Clean Growth • Accelerating the Shift to Low Carbon Transport – 24% of UK Emissions, including investing £1.2 billion to make walking and cycling the natural choice for shorter journeys • Enhancing the Benefits and Value of Our Natural Resources – 15% of UK Emissions, encompassing establishing a new network of forests. The strategy is informed by the obligations under the 2015 Paris Agreement as well as European Council (2014) target of a 40% reduction in EU domestic emissions to 2030. In the context of the UK's legal requirements under the Climate Change Act, the UK's approach to reducing emissions has two guiding objectives: 1. To meet our domestic commitments at the lowest possible net cost to UK taxpayers, consumers and businesses; and, 2. To maximise the social and economic benefits for the UK from this transition. The Strategy builds upon the Climate Change Act (2008) which established the UK's 2050 target (80% reduction in emissions) and the supporting framework of carbon budgets. [although the 2050 Target Amendment, 2019, updates this to 100% reduction in emissions]. Greenhouse gas removal is closely linked to how the Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	Historic Environment	An Act of Parliament that altered the laws on granting of planning permission for building works, notably including those of the listed building system in England and Wales
The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	Historic Environment	This Act is concerned with the provisioning, investigation, recording and the preservation and protection of archaeological sites and ancient monuments.
Climate Change and the Historic Environment, English Heritage (2008)	Historic Environment	The statement recognises the climate change impacts the UK is facing and how this poses a risk to the historic environment.
Strategic Environmental Assessment, Sustainability Appraisal and the Historic Environment, Historic Environment (2016)	Historic Environment	Provides guidance on SEA in relation to the historic environment.
The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning 3, Historic Environment (2017)	Historic Environment	Sets out guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes, against the backdrop of the NPPF. It gives general advice on understanding setting, and how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated, as well as advice on how views contribute to setting.
Ancient Woodland and Veteran Trees: Protecting them from development,	Landscape	Sets out guiding principles for considerations when developments affect ancient woodlands or veteran trees. Ancient woodland is defined as an irreplaceable habitat which is important for wildlife, soils, recreational value and cultural, historical and landscape value. Ancient tree is one which attributes include the following: great age, size, condition, biodiversity, cultural heritage and value. The guidance also states that all ancient trees are veteran trees but

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Forestry Commission and Natural England (2014)		not all veteran trees are ancient. A veteran tree may not be very old, but it has decay features, such as branch death and hollowing which contribute to its biodiversity, cultural and heritage value. When making decisions the following should be considered: • conserving and enhancing biodiversity • reducing the level of impact of the proposed development on ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees
National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 2008	Landscape	This Act makes provision for National Parks and the establishment of a National Parks Commission; to confer on the Nature Conservancy and local authorities powers for the establishment and maintenance of nature reserves; to make further provision for the recording, creation, maintenance and improvement of public paths and for securing access to open country. Part II of the Act relates to the designation of national parks and the duties of certain bodies including Natural England. Part III regards nature conservation, outlining the declarations and establishment of nature reserves by local authorities and the bylaws for the protection of these reserves. Part IV regards the provisions of rights of way, including the ascertainment of footpaths, bridleways and other highways. Part V relates to access to open county. This encompasses the public access to open country and the provision of means of access.
Our Waste, Our Resources: A Strategy for England, HM Government (2018)	Material Assets	The Strategy recognises that natural capital is one of our most valuable assets and sets out how the Government plans to preserve the stock of material resources by minimising waste, promoting resource efficiency and moving towards a circular economy. They also set out how they aim to minimise damage to the natural environment and is aligned to the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan. This is our blueprint for eliminating avoidable plastic waste over the lifetime of the 25 Year Plan, doubling resource productivity, and eliminating avoidable waste of all kinds by 2050.
Safeguarding our Soils - A strategy for England, Defra (2009)	Soil	The Strategy recognises that soil is fundamental resource and sets out a 2030 vision for the sustainable management of soil where degradation threats are tackled successfully. It aims to improve the quality of England's soils and safeguard their ability to provide essential services for future generations.
Water Resources Act 1991	Water	The Act sets out the functions of National Rivers Authority (now the Environment Agency) and introduced water quality classifications and objectives for the first time.
Water Industry Act 1991	Water	The Act sets out the main powers and duties of the water and sewerage companies, thus replacing those set out in the Water Act 1989, and defined the powers of the Director General of Water Services (now the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat)).
Water Act 2003 (as amended)	Water	The Act amends the Water Resources Act and Regulations 1991 and the Water Industry Act 1991. The Act has the following four broad aims: • the sustainable use of water resources • strengthening the voice of consumers • a measured increase in competition • the promotion of water conservation
Preparing for a drier future: England's water infrastructure needs, National Infrastructure Commission (2018)	Water	Sets out the National Infrastructure Commission's advice on how to address England's water supply challenges and deliver the appropriate level of resilience for the long term. It recognises that water shortages is a risk in England and that climate change alongside an increasing population A (especially in the drier south and east) and the need to protect the environment will result in further challenges.
Draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure, Defra (2018)	Water	The draft National Policy Statement for Water Resources Infrastructure (NPS) sets out the need and government's policies for the development of nationally significant infrastructure projects relevant to water resources in England. It is aligned with the goal of clean and plentiful water as set out in the UK Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and recognises that a twin track approach is required to secure resilient water supplies.
Water for Life White Paper, Defra (2011)	Water	This White Paper sets out a vision for future water management in which the water sector is resilient; water companies are more efficient and customer focused; and water is valued as the precious and finite resource it is. It explains that everyone has a part to play in the realisation of this vision. It sets out the principles and timetable for an overhaul of the abstraction regime, which governs how and when water can be taken from the environment for use by business, agriculture and the public; and explains how improved interconnections between water catchments will allow water to be moved more easily around the country to areas of need. It details Government policy on charging for water and providing help to those who struggle to afford their bills.
The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and	Water	The Regulations transpose the EC WFD in UK law. They will help implement the WFD requirement in England and Wales. They aim to protect and enhance the quality of: • Surface freshwater (including lakes, streams and rivers) • Groundwaters

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Wales) Regulations 2003 (as amended)		• Groundwater dependant ecosystems • Estuaries • Coastal waters out to one mile from low-water
Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution, Environment Agency (2017)	Water	It aims to avoid negative impacts on groundwater sources including impacts of pollution by providing guidance on discharging or abstracting from groundwater sources.
Groundwater protection technical guidance, Environment Agency (2017)	Water	It aims to avoid negative effects on the quality and quantity of groundwater resources by providing guidance on the inputs of substances and pollutants to groundwater, discernibility of hazardous substances and when geological formations can be determined permanently unsuitable for other purposes.
The Environment Agency's approach to groundwater protection, Environment Agency (2018)	Water	These position statements describe the Environment Agency's approach to managing and protecting groundwater. They update Groundwater protection: principles and practice (GP3).
The Groundwater (England and Wales) Regulations 2009	Water	The Regulations transpose the EU Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) into UK law. The Regulations set out to protect groundwater from being polluted by hazardous substances.
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	Water	The Act seeks to address the threat of flooding and water scarcity. The Act takes forward a number of recommendations from the Pitt Review into the 2007 floods and places new responsibilities on the Environment Agency, local authorities and others to manage the risk of flooding. Climate projections suggest extreme weather will happen more frequently in the future and this Act is central to reducing the flood risk associated with extreme weather.
National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England, Environment Agency (2020)	Water, Climatic Factors, Population, Human Health	The Strategy sets out the long-term delivery objectives the nation should take over the next 10 to 30 years as well as shorter term, practical measures risk management authorities should take working with partners and communities. It includes the following long term vision: 'a nation ready for, and resilient to, flooding and coastal change – today, tomorrow and to the year 2100', and includes the following three long-term ambitions: • Climate resilient places • Today's growth and infrastructure resilient in tomorrow's climate • A nation ready to respond and adapt to flooding and coastal change
The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policy Statement, Defra (2020)	Water, Climatic Factors, Population, Human Health	The Policy Statement sets out the long-term goal of the Government to create a nation which is resilient to future flood and coastal erosion, and therefore protects people, the environment and the economy. The National Flood and Coastal Erosion Strategy has helped to inform this policy statement. It identifies five key areas for action which include: • Upgrading and expanding our national flood defences and infrastructure • Managing the flow of water more effectively • Harnessing the power of nature to reduce flood and coastal erosion risk and • achieve multiple benefits • Better preparing our communities • Enabling more resilient places through a catchment-based approach
Flood risk assessments: climate change allowances, Environment Agency (2016)	Water, Climatic Factors	The guidance sets out how climate change should be accounted for when local authorities prepare strategic flood risk assessment as well as when developers and their agents when they prepare flood risk assessments for planning applications, and development consent orders for nationally significant infrastructure projects. The guidance provides allowances for anticipated change of the following and are aligned to each river basin in some cases: peak river flow; peak rainfall intensity; sea level rise; and offshore wind speed and extreme wave height.
The Water Resources Management Plan Regulations 2007	Water	The regulations set out the statutory duty for water companies to prepare and publish a WRMP.

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Water Resources Planning Framework (2015-2065), Water UK (2016)	Water	The project aims to develop a high-level strategy and framework for the long-term management and planning of water resources in England and Wales. It identifies the challenges facing water resources including climate change, resilience to droughts and demand growth and presents options to mitigate the issues.
Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended)	Water	The regulations consolidate legislation concerning the quality of water supplies for human consumption in England. They also apply in Wales where the water undertaker or licensee is primarily based in England.
National Policy Statement for Wastewater (2012)	Water	National Policy Statement (NPS) sets out Government policy for the provision of major wastewater infrastructure. It aims to make existing policy and practice clear and transparent in relation to nationally significant wastewater infrastructure.
Climate change approaches in water resources planning – Overview of new methods, Environment Agency (2013)	Water, Climatic Factors	The report explores different ways in which the possible impacts of climate change could be incorporated into Water Resource Management Plans (WRMPs) in England and Wales. A number of improvements are suggested, but not limited to: • Undertaking vulnerability assessments to evaluate Water Resource Zones (WRZs) vulnerability to current and future climate and using the outcomes to determine the level of modelling required to assess future impacts of climate change. • Alternative methods to scaling the impacts of climate change from the base year to the 2030s and beyond. • Headroom assessment should clearly distinguish between climate and non-climate risks and report outputs for specific reference levels of headroom.
Drought response: our framework for England, Environment Agency (2017)	Water, Climatic Factors	The document outlines the national framework for how drought is managed by the Environment Agency, the government and water companies to reduce the effects on the people, business and the environment. It sets out how drought affects different areas of England, who is involved in management drought and how those stakeholders, and how drought is manged, monitored and reported on.
Future Water: the Government's water strategy for England, Defra (2008)	Water	The Strategy sets Defra's vision for the water sector up to 2030 and outlines the steps they will implement to achieve that vision. Their vision is where rivers, canals, lakes and seas have improved for people and wildlife, with benefits for angling, boating and other recreational activities, and with continued provisions for excellent quality drinking water. It is structured around water supply and demand, water quality in the natural environment, surface water drainage, river and coastal flooding, greenhouse gas, water charging, the regulatory framework and innovation.
Water Resources Planning Guideline, Environment Agency (2016)	Water	This document provides guidance on the requirements and process for water resource planning through WRMPs to ensure resilient and sustainable water supplies. It is currently being updated and is out for public consultation until October 2020.
The Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994	Water	The Regulations transpose the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and sets out to regulate the disposal of sewage.
The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015	Water	The Regulations transpose EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) into UK law and aim to reduce the pollution in the water environment from nitrates.
Managing Water Abstraction, Environment Agency (2016)	Water	Sets out how the Environment Agency manage water resources in England and outlines the technical, legal and policy requirements behind the abstraction licensing strategies.
Marine Plans – South East Inshore, South Inshore, South Offshore (Marine Management Organisation)	Water	A marine plan: • Sets out priorities and directions for future development within the plan area • Informs sustainable use of marine resources • Helps marine users understand the best locations for their activities, including where new developments may be appropriate. Each of the 11 marine plan areas will have a marine plan with a long-term (20 years) view of activities and will be reviewed every three years. There will be ten marine plans as the North West will have a single plan following requests to have a single process and one plan for these areas. All marine plan areas are scheduled to have a plan by 2021.
UK Marine Policy Statement (2011)	Water	The UK Marine Policy Statement (MPS) provides the policy framework for the marine planning system. It provides the context for marine plans. Marine plans put into practice the objectives for the marine environment that are identified in the MPS alongside the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the Localism Act 2011. Where there is no marine plan in place, the MPS sets the direction for decisions that affect the marine areas, such as granting licences for all public bodies.

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Drought Plan (England) Direction 2020	Water	The Direction sets out to specify what needs to be addressed in water company drought plans.
The Water Use (Temporary Bans) Order 2010	Water	The Order relates to the Flood and Water Management Act and Water Industry Act and provides more detail on types of usage, exemptions and conditions relating to companies' new powers.
Drought Plan Regulations 2005	Water	Sets out the steps that a statutory water undertaker must follow with respect to publication and consultation of a draft drought plan, and the publication of its final drought plan.
Drought Plan Direction 2011	Water	Outlines the uses of water which can be banned by water companies under a drought order.
Regional and Local		
Site Improvement Plans for Natura 2000 Sites, Natural England	Biodiversity	Site Improvement Plans (SIPs) have been developed for each Natura 2000 site in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS). Natura 2000 sites is the combined term for sites designated as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Areas (SPA). There are 12 SACs and 7 SPAs within the Affinity Water region. The plan provides a high level overview of the issues (both current and predicted) affecting the condition of the Natura 2000 features on the site(s) and outlines the priority measures required to improve the condition of the features. It does not cover issues where remedial actions are already in place or ongoing management activities which are required for maintenance.
Local Development Plans (Various)	Cross-cutting	Local Development Plans or Core Strategies are the main framework for planning in a local authorities and set out the long-term spatial vision to guide sustainable development. They include policies on key area such as housing, transport, the natural environment, employment and economic development, carbon reduction and resources, amongst others. The following local authorities are within the Affinity Water region: Watford District (B); Stevenage District (B); St. Albans District (B); Three Rivers District; Runnymede District (B); Harrow London Borough; Harlow District; Hertsmere District (B); Luton (B); Woking District (B); Hillingdon London Borough; Uttlesford District; North Hertfordshire District; Tendring District; Welwyn Hatfield District (B); East Hertfordshire District; Chiltern District; Barnet London Borough; Epping Forest District; Dacorum District (B); Spelthorne District (B); Folkestone and Hythe District; Surrey Heath District (B); Brent London Borough; South Bucks District; Ealing London Borough; Dover District; Guildford District (B); Elmbridge District (B); Bracknell Forest (B); Brentwood District (B); Hounslow London Borough; Windsor and Maidenhead (B); Central Bedfordshire; Slough (B); Canterbury District (B); Wycombe District; Colchester District (B); Enfield London Borough; Broxbourne District (B); Haringey London Borough; South Cambridgeshire District; Ashford District (B); Camden London Borough; Havering London Borough; Babergh District; Chelmsford District (B); Aylesbury Vale District; Redbridge London Borough; Braintree District; Rother District; and Mole Valley District.
Public Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIPs)	Cross-cutting	ROWIPs outline how local authorities aim to improve public rights of way within their local area in order to ensure improved accessibility, connectivity and quality of the network for all.
Local level Green Infrastructure Plans and Strategies	Cross-cutting	Green Infrastructure Strategies set out how local authorities will improve provision of and access to quality green spaces.
National Natural Capital Atlas: Mapping Indicators, Natural England (2020)	Cross-cutting	The state of the natural capital in England is outlined in this report through a series of maps and indicators to show the quality, quantity and location of natural assets as well as the ecosystem services that they provide. Quantity indicators are divided into eight broad habitat type categories including freshwater; farmland; grasslands; mountain, moor and heath; woodland; urban; coastal; and marine. Quality indicators are also split out into broad categories which cover vegetation; nutrient and chemical status; soil / sediment process; species composition; vegetation; and cultural. These indicators are designed to inform decision making and to help to achieve the commitments set out in the 25 Year Plan, and also acts a baseline to measure change.
AONB Management Plans	Landscape	The Management Plans summarise the key issues facing the AONBs and outline the management policies and actions required to conserve these areas. The following Plans are relevant to the Affinity Water region: • The Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2019-2024 – key issues for the site in relation to water include unsustainable abstraction; high levels of water use; modifications of water courses; poor ecological conditions in chalk streams; pollution; INNS; and the impacts of climate change. • Kent Downs AONB Management Plan 2021-2026 - key issues for the site in relation to water include water quality; abstraction; climate change; nutrient pollution; and water stress.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
		• Dedham Vale AONB Management Plan 2016-2021 – the following have been identified as key pressures demand for agricultural, horticultural and recreational water supplies; loss of wildlife associated with riparian habitats; demand for potable water; loss of natural processes operating in the river system; requirement to improve ecological condition of catchment through the Water Framework Directive; recreational use of the river; Ely-Ouse to Essex water transfer scheme; INNS; and costs of maintaining river structures falling to landowners. • Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Management Plan 2020-2025 – key issues for water include meeting WFD standards; wetland habitats; water quality; and flooding.
National Character Area (NCA) Profiles, Natural England	Landscape	The profiles for each outline the characteristics which are unique to that area and help to form distinctive sense of place. There are 15 NCAs within the Affinity Water region which include: • Estuary • Suffolk Coast and Heaths • South Suffolk and North Essex Clayland • East Anglian Chalk • Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire Claylands • Chilterns • Greater Thames • North Thames Basin • Inner London • Thames Basin Lowlands • Thames Valley • North Downs • Wealden Greensand • Low Weald • Romney Marshes • Thames Basin Heaths
Anglian River Basin Management Plan (2015)	Water	The purpose of a river basin management plan is to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning. The following have been identified as key pressures for the basin: • Physical modifications - affecting 51% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from waste water – affecting 50% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from towns, cities and transport - affecting 10% of water bodies in this river basin district • Changes to the natural flow and level of water - affecting 10% of water bodies in this river basin district • Negative effects of invasive non-native species - affecting 6% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from rural areas - affecting 47% of water bodies in this river basin district
South East River Basin Management Plan (2015)	Water	The purpose of a river basin management plan is to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning. The following have been identified as key pressures for the basin: • Physical modifications - affecting 43% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from waste water – affecting 40% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from towns, cities and transport - affecting 9% of water bodies in this river basin district • Changes to the natural flow and level of water - affecting 7% of water bodies in this river basin district • Negative effects of invasive non-native species - affecting 2% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from rural areas - affecting 30% of water bodies in this river basin district
Thames River Basin Management Plan (2015)	Water	The purpose of a river basin management plan is to provide a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning. The following have been identified as key pressures for the basin: • Physical modifications - affecting 44% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from waste water – affecting 45% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from towns, cities and transport - affecting 17% of water bodies in this river basin district • Changes to the natural flow and level of water - affecting 12% of water bodies in this river basin district • Negative effects of invasive non-native species - affecting 3% of water bodies in this river basin district • Pollution from rural areas - affecting 27% of water bodies in this river basin district

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Catchment Flood Management Plans (2009): Anglian River Basin South East River Basin Thames River Basin	Water	CFMPs have been produced to assess inland flood risk across England and Wales. The CFMPs relevant to the WRMP are detailed in the column to the left. The CFMPs consider all types of inland flooding: from rivers, ground water, surface water and tidal flooding (but not coastal flooding, which is covered by Shoreline Management Plans. The role of the CFMPs is to establish flood risk management policies which will deliver sustainable flood risk management for the long term. CFMPs should be used to inform planning and decision making by key stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, local authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, water companies and other utilities; transportation planners; land owners, farmers and land managers; the public and businesses to enhance their understanding of flood risk and how it will be managed. The CFMPs identify six generic flood risk management policies: • Policy 1- Areas of little or no flood risk where the EA will continue to monitor and advise: this policy will tend to be applied in those areas where there are very few properties at risk of flooding. It reflects a commitment to work with the natural flood processes as far as possible. • Policy 2 - Areas of low to moderate flood risk where the EA can generally reduce existing flood risk management actions: this policy will tend to be applied where the overall level of risk to people and property is low to moderate. • Policy 3 - Areas of low to moderate flood risk where the EA are generally managing existing flood risk effectively: this policy will tend to be applied where the risks are currently appropriately managed and where the risk of flooding is not expected to increase significantly in the future. • Policy 4 - Areas of low, moderate or high flood risk where the EA are already managing the flood risk effectively but where they may need to take further actions to keep pace with climate change: this policy will tend to be applied where the risks are currently deemed to be appropriately-managed, but where the risk of flooding is expected to significantly rise in the future. • Policy 5 - Areas of moderate to high flood risk where the EA can generally take further action to reduce flood risk: this policy will tend to be applied to those areas where the case for further action to reduce flood risk is most compelling, for example where there are many people at high risk, or where changes in the environment have already increased risk. • Policy 6 - Areas of low to moderate flood risk where the EA will take action with others to store water or manage run-off in: locations that provide overall flood risk reduction or environmental benefits. This policy will tend to be applied where there may be opportunities in some locations to reduce flood risk locally or more widely in a catchment by storing water or managing run-off. To select the most appropriate policy, the CFMPs consider how the social, economic and environmental objectives are affected by flood risk management activities under each policy option. The policies identified in the CFMPs will be delivered through a range of delivery plans, projects and actions.
Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS) (2016)	Water	The Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) set out how the EA will manage water abstraction. They outline where water is available, and also, if relevant, where the EA needs to reduce current rates of abstraction. Each CAMS provides an overview of the catchment area and characteristics, including abstractions, geology, hydrology, hydrometry, water quality and discharges, ecology and conservation, recreation and navigation. The CAMS make information on water resources and licensing practice publicly available and allow the balance between the needs of abstractors, other water users and the aquatic environment to be considered in consultation with the local community and interested parties. CAMS are also the mechanism for managing time limited licences by determining whether they should be renewed and, if so, on what terms.
Chalk-Streams First: A Permanent and Sustainable Solution to the Chilterns Chalk-Streams Crisis, Various (2020)	Water	Chalk Streams First has been developed by a coalition formed of The Angling Trust, The Rivers Trust, Salmon & Trout Conservation, The Wild Trout Trust and WWF UK. It is an approach which aims to re-naturalise flows in the Chilterns chalk streams given their international uniqueness. Abstraction from the Chilterns aquifer which feed the chalk-streams has had damaging effects , resulting in low and un-natural flows. The Chalk Streams First proposes: • Groundwater abstraction from the Chilterns is stopped • Flow recovery is utilised to send water to existing surface water abstraction points within the Lower Lea and Thames as an alternatives, resulting in a 15% net loss in supply • The net 15% loss is recovered through strategic Affinity Water and Thames Water proposals • "Supply 2040" is brought forward to "Supply 2030"
Meeting our Future Water Needs: a National Framework for Water Resources, Environment Agency (2020)	Water	The Framework explores the long-term needs of all sectors that depend on a secure supply of water, taking into account the commitments set out in the UK Government's 25 Year Plan. It sets out the principles, expectations and challenges for the five regional groups which cover England's water supply in order to take a collaborative approach to address the current and future challenge of water resource planning. The importance of regional planning is paramount to address the following challenges: • Resilience to drought • Greater environmental improvement • Reducing water use in the long-term

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
		• Leakage reduction • Reducing the use of drought permits and drought orders • Increasing supplies • Moving water to where it is needed
Long-term water resources environmental destination, Environment Agency (2020)	Water	Regional water resources plans provide the opportunity to deliver an environmental destination for water resources where environmental issues related to water supply and demand are addressed in the long term. The document provides guidance for regional groups and water companies to help to integrate the long-term environmental water resources needs when developing their regional plans. It sets out a standard approach to allow for both consistency whilst allowing for flexibility depending on specific needs and issues. It sets out the following: • What the environmental destination should look like: Enable environmental resilience and protection for water resources up to at least 2050 through a variety of actions. • Stages needed to propose a long-term environmental destination: Review national policy, use scenarios, engage with stakeholders, develop environmental destination and carry out testing. • Defining a long-term environmental destination: Use the scenarios from the National Framework to support and inform the destination development. • What a long-term environmental destination should include: Meet current regulatory requirements for abstraction and integrate future needs. • Actions to meet an environmental destination: Resilience to climate change, integrates stakeholder views, considers costs and scale, supports wider government ambitions, prioritises the most vulnerable and protected sites, integrates a catchment approach and nature based solutions, supports net gain principles, uses the best data and is not constrained by previous decisions. The guidance also includes reference to how to carry out engagement, set milestones and outlines the governance for implementing a long-term environmental destination.
Water Resources Planning Guideline, Various (2021)	Water	The guideline was published by the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and Ofwat. It is relevant to water companies in England and Wales and also to those producing regional plans. It provides guidance on how to produce a Plan (WRMP or Regional Plan), taking into account all the relevant statutory requirements and government policy. The guidance sets out the national, regional and local planning context, how to form and develop a WRMP, forecasting supply and demand, uncertainty allowances, option identification and developing a best value plan.
WRSE Regional Plan, WRSE (pending 2022)	Water	WRSE are currently developing a Regional Plan to secure resilient and sustainable water supplies for future generations through a collaborative, regional approach. The WRSE regional plan aims to take a long-term view to water resource planning across the region to 2100 in order to secure a sustainable and resilient water supply. The WRSE regional plan will seek to: • Ensure there is enough water for a growing population and to support economic growth • Improve the environment by leaving more water in the region's rivers, streams and underground sources • Increase the region's resilience to severe drought and other extreme shocks and stresses • Address the impacts of climate change on demand for water and how much is available
Developing our 'Best Value' multi-sector regional resilience plan, a consultation on our objectives, value criteria and metrics, WRSE (2021)	Water	The report sets out WRSE's proposed approach to identifying the 'Best Value' plan as part of the regional planning process. Given that 'Best Value' can mean different things to different people, the report aims to create a framework that will be used to assess the additional value delivered by water resource programmes. WRSE outline the following as objectives for the 'Best Value' Plan, each of which have associated criteria and metrics used to assess the various water resource programmes in their investment modelling: • Deliver a secure and wholesome supply of water to customers and other users to 2100 • Be deliverable at a cost that is acceptable to customers • Deliver long-term environmental improvement and social benefits • Increase the resilience of the region's water systems A set of regional policies have also been developed to be delivered through the Regional Plan, some of which are regulatory requirements, however the following at within WRSE's discretion: • No use of drought orders and permits that cause unnecessary harm* to the environment by 2040 and identification of those that could be considered as an option within the regional plan • A common level of service for customer temporary use bans across the six companies that operate in our region • A provision of water to support those with private water supplies during droughts to overcome public health and animal welfare concerns by 2050 • Only import transfers of water that meet at least the same standards as our regional plan, for example environmental standards

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
WRSE Regional Plan Environmental Assessment Methodology, WRSE and Mott MacDonald (2020)	Water	The guidance sets out the methodology for the environmental appraisal of the WRSE Regional Plan and provides a framework for WRMP24 development. It aligns with Environment Agency guidance and takes an integrated approach for SEA, Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA), Water Framework Directive (WFD), Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Natural Capital (NC). The environmental assessment methodology is structured around the following key stages: • Scoping – sets out the process for SEA Scoping to outline the context, scope and methodology for the SEA assessment. SEA, HRA and WFD datasets as well as regional prioritises and environmental ambition feed into this stage. • Assessment – two stage assessment process proposed (high level screening and detailed assessment). High level screening to be undertaken on the constrained options list and scored using a red amber green (RAG) approach with "Red" options flagged for rejection or mitigation. The detailed assessment to include SEA, HRA, WFD and NC assessments and the methodology outlines the approach for each. From the detailed assessments, SEA, NC and BNG metrics are to be developed for the multi-criteria optimisation approach as part of the investment modelling and programme appraisal stage of the Regional Plan. • Reporting and Consultation – presents the process of reporting the environmental appraisal for consultation.
WRSE Regional Plan SEA Scoping Report, WRSE and Mott MacDonald (2020)	Water	The SEA Scoping Report sets out the context of the Regional Plan, the environmental baseline and scope of the SEA process alongside the methodology for undertaking the SEA. The Regional Plan is not a statutory plan and SEA is not legally required, however, to ensure sustainability is integrated into the Plan, WRSE wishes to undertake a legally compliant SEA. All SEA topics (biodiversity, flora and fauna; water; soil; air; climatic factors; population, communities and human health; historic environment; landscape; and material assets) have been scoped into the SEA. The SEA framework sets out the SEA objectives and criteria which the resource options will be assessed against.
WRSE Natural Capital and Biodiversity Net Gain Method Statement, WRSE and Mott MacDonald (2020)	Water	The Method Statement provides a review of the environmental and natural capital elements of the new draft water resources planning guidance and its alignment to the scope and proposed approach to environmental assessment for the WRSE Regional Plan. The Statement outlines that BNG will be incorporated within the assessment of different programmes to ensure there is net biodiversity gain across any implemented plan. Mott MacDonald has suggested developing a biodiversity baseline from spatial data sets of habitat inventories, which can then be used to calculate BNG change through land use of each option. This is recommended as a suitable methodology within the new guidance and will allow for the individual companies to utilise work from the regional plan within the development of their WRMPs. NC metrics will also be developed for integration within the multi-criteria optimisation process.
WRE Regional Plan, WRE (pending 2022)	Water	WRE are developing a Regional Plan to increase resilience of water resources for all users across the region, to ensure water resources do not pose a barrier to economic growth and to enhance the environment. The Plan will take a long-term view to 2100 and aims to balance the needs of each sector, ensuring that there is enough water for the environment and allows long-term uncertainty and risk to managed; both for water supply systems, as well as for the natural systems on which all abstractors depend. WRE covers the following water companies: Affinity Water (Brett resource zone); Anglian Water; Cambridge Water (part of South Staffordshire Water); Essex and Suffolk Water (part of Northumbrian Water); and Severn Trent (Nottinghamshire and Rutland resource zones).
WRE Regional Plan Method Statement, WRE (2020)	Water	The Method Statement sets out how WRE will produce their Regional Plan in line with the National Framework. A collaborative approach will be taken where WRE will work with planners and representatives from sectors and organisations across the region, developing the Plan through engagement, co-creation and collective decision making. There are two inter-related multi-sector elements within the WRE Regional Plan which includes: • Strategic, regional scale planning which will include a combination of multi-objective robust decision making (MO-RDM), systematic conservation planning (SCP), and least cost optimisation based on the Economics of Balancing Supply and Demand (EBSD) • Sub-regional, including catchment scale, planning The Plan aims to make the responsibility of each sector clear in terms of the financing and delivery of schemes which include those specifically for water companies to be incorporated within their WRMPs as well as strategies, plans or schemes which need to be delivered by others.
WRE Draft Integrated Environmental Assessment Scoping Report, WRW (2021)	Water	An Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) is being undertaken to support the development of the WRE Regional Plan. The IEA will include SEA, HRA, WFD, BNG, NC and INNS assessments. The IEA encompasses an overarching SEA with the other assessments contributing to it. The Scoping Reports sets out the context and scope of the IEA with a focus on SEA. All topics are scoped into the SEA assessment and the report outlines the SEA framework and the assessment criteria which will be used to assess the options presented within the Regional Plan. The following approach is proposed to determine the environmental effects of the options and alternatives programmes: • A high-level environmental screening assessment • Detailed options-level assessment (including SEA, HRA, WFD, Natural Capital, BNG, and INNS assessments) • Programme Appraisal, including cumulative and in-combination effects for SEA, HRA, WFD, Natural Capital, BNG, and INNS.

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Water Resources West Regional Plan, WRW (pending 2023)	Water	The WRW Regional Plan covers catchment areas in the north-west of England, the Midlands and the cross-border catchments with Wales. The aim is to build a long-term, multi-sector adaptive plan that reflects the needs and characteristics of their diverse region. The Plan will cover the period from 2025 to 2085 with a final version published in 2023. The Plan will be shaped by the following regional ambitions: • Sustainable water supplies, meeting wider societal needs for wellbeing • Continued environmental improvement for sustainable water resources • Resilience to extreme droughts in a changing climate · Water available to support economic growth across multiple sectors • Ambitious water demand management • Exploring water transfers to bring investment and multiple benefits to the region • Cost-effective plans, identified through innovation and co-operation, so solutions are affordable
Forward programme 2021-22, RAPID (2021)	Water	The Regulator's Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) is a partnership formed of Ofwat, the Environment Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate with Natural Resources Wales involved in an advisory capacity for Welsh schemes. To achieve the vision for high quality, resilient and environmentally beneficial water resources which meet customer needs, Strategic Resource Options (SROs) are required and involve collaboration and complex arrangements between water companies and regions. Funding was allocated to water companies to develop these SRO infrastructure supply solutions and RAPID were established to support their development. RAPID undertakes the following roles: • Gated process: The first role of RAPID is to provide oversight to the gated process which has been developed to ensure SROs are on track and meet needs in a cost and environmentally efficient way. Gate 1 submission has already taken place with Gate 2 due to complete in October 2022. • Water Resources National Framework: RAPID acts as an enabler for the National Framework, supporting the co-ordination of the five regional groups and helping to shape regional plans. • Regulatory and commercial framework: Thirdly, RAPID are developing the regulatory and commercial framework to support the timely delivery of water resources infrastructure. For the period 2021-2022, RAPID have identified the following five key delivery areas: developing a positive culture and driving performance; providing effective oversight of the strategic solutions engaging people and organisations; achieving effective long-term water resources resilience; and exploring and addressing regulatory and commercial opportunities, gaps and barriers.
Draft South East Marine Plan, Marine Management Organisation (2020)	Water	The south east inshore marine plan area stretches from Felixstowe in Suffolk to near Folkestone in Kent, covering approximately 1,400 kilometres of coastline, taking in a total of approximately 3,900 square kilometres of sea. The French marine area, east inshore and offshore marine plan areas and the south inshore marine plan area border the south east inshore marine plan area. The area overlaps with 42 local authorities and three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The River Thames has a large influence on the south east inshore marine plan area. The Plan sets out specific policy areas which include, but not limited to, co-existence, aquaculture, water quality, climate change, fisheries, marine litter, biodiversity, and net gain and natural capital. There are three key objectives, each of which have further aims associated with them: • Achieving a sustainable marine economy • Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society • Living within environmental limits
Affinity Water		
Climate adaptation reporting second round, Affinity Water and Defra (2015)	Climatic Factors	Affinity Water has a vision to be the leading community focused water company and climate adaptation forms a key part of this. Drought, flooding and peak water demand conditions have been identified as key risks for the Affinity Water region. This second report of reporting incorporates an improved understanding of climate change thresholds for Affinity Water and a number of mitigation measures to combat the risks of climate change have been identified, these include: • Implemented a flood mitigation programme for 35 of their highest priority sites • Reviewed their drought management plans and monitoring processes • Commenced the measures identified in their WRMP in order to ensure sufficient supply whilst retaining more water in the environment Additional actions which will be taken forward to continue to increase resilience include: • Increase their adaptative capability • Customer focus on understanding their appetite for resilience investment Undertake targeted projects to address specific climate risks

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
Environment Policy (2019)	Cross-cutting	The Policy sets out Affinity Water's commitment and vision on being the leading community-focussed water company, protecting the environment, preventing pollution and complying with environmental regulations. Management of the impact on the natural environmental will be achieved by: • Minimising waste generation • Optimising energy use • Controlling pollution risks • Minimising environmental impacts from the supply chain • Working collaboratively with communities, regulators and government agencies to manage impacts on the environment
WRMP 2020-2080 (2020)	Water	The WRMP sets out how Affinity Water will provide a reliable, resilient, efficient and affordable water supply to customers from 2020 to 2080, whilst protecting the environment. It aims to balance the availability of water with the demand and recognises the important role population growth and climate change will play in achieving this balance. The bulk of Affinity Water's water supply is from aquifers (65%) and the remaining is from rivers. The following are key themes of the Plan: • Demand growth through population growth • Climate change – extreme weather • Reduce demand through metering and water efficiency • Collaboration and trading of water resources • Water quality • Sustainable abstraction • Leakage • Drought • Resilience in the round short, medium and long term • Achieving their ambition
Drought Plan Annual Update (2019)	Water	The Plan sets out to ensure a consistent approach is implemented across Affinity Water's three regions and throughout the business. The Plan is built on their experience of previous drought management over the last 30 years, including the multiple year groundwater droughts of 1990 to 1992, 1996 to 1998 and 2005 to 2007, as well as 2011 to 2012 and 2017 to 2019. A proactive approach is taken to ensure resilience and secure supplies through: • Being prepared for drought at any time and having the Plan ready to deal with it. • Continuous monitoring of environmental conditions in partnership with the Environment Agency • Identifying the onset of drought and mobilising additional resources to proactively manage risks • Assessing drought duration and severity together with the impact on water available to customers • Minimising environmental impact of operations during drought conditions by optimising the use of our resources • Reducing water demand or increasing capacity of our assets to maintain security of supplies • Acting and communicating with customers and other stakeholders in partnership
Strategic Resource Options (SROs), Gate 1 Submission Documents (2021)	Water	Affinity Water are developing six SROs alongside Severn Trent Water, the Canal and Rivers Trust, Thames Water and Anglian Water. These inter-regional transfers are required to meet customer needs and due to the significant infrastructure associated with them, they require long-term planning and as such these SROs may be required from 2025 and beyond. As outlined above, RAPID has been established to support the delivery of these SROs, all of which have now completed the Gate 1 stage which demonstrates the options' viability and progress. The next stage, Gate 2, is due in October 2022 where the option will be developed to a more detailed level. The six SROs are: • Minworth: A source of raw water flow augmentation to support either the Severn to Thames Transfer (STT) SRO, the Grand Union Canal (GUC) SRO, or a combination of the two. • The Grand Union Canal (GUC): An option that utilises the existing canal infrastructure to transfer treated wastewater from Minworth (STW) in the Midlands to Affinity Water in Hertfordshire and North West London. • The South East Strategic Reservoir: a proposed new reservoir located near Abingdon (Oxfordshire) that offers storage and a resilient supply of raw water to the River Thames during periods of low flow, for subsequent re-abstraction in London. • The Thames to Affinity Transfer (T2AT): A raw water transfer that could use a variety of potential source waters (three possible source options SESRO, Severn Thames Transfer or different London- reuse options). Three possible 'corridors' have been identified – 1) the fluvial Thames, 2) West London Re-use and 3) East London Re-use, all would include new treatment works and conveyance routes.

Policy, Plan or Programme	Topic	Key objectives, guidance and references
		• The South Lincolnshire Reservoir (SLR): a proposed new reservoir expected to be located in Lincolnshire. When river flows allow, water would be sourced from the River Witham supported by a transfer from the River Trent. Water could be transferred to the reservoir either by a pipeline or an open water transfer. Local flows from the South Forty Foot Drain will also be incorporated into the design where possible. • The Anglian to Affinity Transfer (A2AT): a proposed new piece of infrastructure that would transfer water from the Anglian Water region to supply Affinity Water customers. The transfer would source water from a new supply to be developed in the Anglian Water region, which could be the South Lincolnshire Reservoir, the Fens Reservoir or a new source from the River Trent.
Strategic Direction Statement (TBC)	Water	The Statement sets out how Affinity Water will meet the needs of their customers over the next 25 years and has a vision to be the leading water company with a community focus. This community led approach is outlined to be achieve through taking a local approach to managing resources and assets. The Statement aims to take into account customer feedback and includes commitments to further engage with customers to ensure their views are integrated. Sustainability is also integrated in the Statement where Affinity will seek to maintain the local environment, sustain the local community and support the local economy. The Statement also outlines commitments to ensure customers have enough water that is of high quality whilst also setting out to minimise disruptions to supply. This is all brought together through Affinity Water's commitment to providing value for money.
Revised Business Plan (2019)	Water	The Business Plan sets out Affinity Water's focus, taking into account Ofwat's responses to the original place. The Plan recognises that Affinity have performed well in some areas during AMP6, but fell short in others such as performance on supply interruptions. Some of the key features of the Plan include: • Reducing household bills • Making themselves more visibility accountable to different communities by increasing performance commitments • Increasing the leakage reduction target from 15% to 18.5%

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